

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 41 and 42 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found in the Specification as filed at least in paragraphs [0036] – [0041] of U.S. Publication No. US2005/0096687. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed in light of the previous RCE Submission filed on May 4, 2006 and the following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

New Claims

Claims 41 and 42 have been added. The present invention is based on the recognition that the damage to the scalp and the inefficient placement of hair grafts caused by prior art hair graft implanting devices can be avoided by a device which accounts for the benefits offered by the fat sack which encompasses the hair follicle of a graft. By capturing a fat-encompassed hair follicle in a chamber which snugly constrains the sack from lateral motion, a fat sack can be expelled through an open distal end of the device by pressure alone. The avoidance of lateral motion by the geometry of the chamber is necessary for pressure to be applied and is discussed in paragraphs [0036] through [0041] of the present application as published in U.S. Publication No. US2005/0096687. Because the fat sack is constrained from lateral motion, the device need not enter the scalp, thereby shielding neighboring implants from forces operative to expel the implants and preventing damage to the implant site.

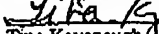
In contrast, U.S. Patent No. 5,817,120 to Rassman discloses the use of a cutting device and a device that enters the scalp.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons and those set forth in the RCE Submission filed on May 4, 2006, Applicants believe pending Claims 13-24 and 30-42 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner does not believe the Application is in condition for allowance, Applicants request a telephonic or personal interview with the Examiner to discuss the claims in light of the cited references. Please telephone Applicants' Attorney at (202) 333-4504 if an interview is to be scheduled.

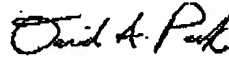
Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Fax No. 571-273-8300 on the date stated below.


Tina Kavanaugh

May 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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